

Four female bombers, two victims die in Borno

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Four female suicide bombers on Wednesday attacked Usmanti and Alkunmi areas along Muna Garage in Maiduguri, Borno State, killing two male pedestrians.

It was learnt that 16 persons were also injured during the multiple bombings, which occurred around 1am.

It was gathered that the corpses of the four bombers and the two passersby were evacuated by rescue workers of the National Emergency Management Agency, while the injured victims were rushed to the state's specialist and teaching hospitals.

According to members of the Civilian Joint Task Force, the bombers also wanted to attack Alkali village in Muna, but the attempt was foiled.

NEMA spokesperson, North-East zone, Abdulkadir Ibrahim, said, "Rescue and health workers immediately mobilised to the scene after an alert. The victims have been transported to the state's specialist hospital and university teaching hospital in Maiduguri."

However, the Borno State Police Command, on Wednesday, said five persons were killed in the attack.

The police said four of the five deceased were the suicide bombers, while eight others were injured.

In an earlier development, the Director, Army Public Relations, Brig.-Gen. Sani Usman, had on Monday confirmed that troops shot dead two female suicide bombers trying to infiltrate Maiduguri through Ummarari village.

The army, however, has yet to comment on the Wednesday bombings as of press time.

Meanwhile, the Director, Defence Information, Maj.-Gen. John Enenche, on Wednesday, said the armed forces would continue to defend the corporate existence of the country.

Enenche, who said this in his maiden briefing at the Defence Headquarters, Abuja, assured that "strategic plans" were underway to enhance adequate security of lives and property.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Children's Fund on Wednesday said it has increased its level of support for children suffering from malnutrition in the North-East by 400 per cent.

UNICEF enrolled 12,000 children in its malnutrition treatment plan, but has decided to increase the number to 48,000.

Speaking in Maiduguri after leading a team to the state to assess the success of the intervention in humanitarian crisis in the state, the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes and Emergencies, UNICEF, Mr. Omar Abdi, revealed that the agency had scaled up its treatment to about 48,000 children suffering from malnutrition at all the Internally Displaced Persons' camps across Borno State and the North-East region in general.

Abdi also disclosed that UNICEF had mapped out support for the education of children at the IDP camps and rehabilitation centres towards improving the standard of children's education, especially the girl child.